

North Cumberland Fire District Board of Trustees

Minutes of Annual Meeting - June 27, 2012

Present: Philip Koutsogiane, Chair Others: Ghislaine Therien, Clerk

Michael Spaziani, Vice Chair Chief Brian Jackvony

John Patrick McCoy Martin Klara, Tax Collector

Duane Guenard Robert Murray, Treasurer

Paul Lindquist Absent: Brian Campbell

Matthew Gannon

Harry MacDonald

Meeting Call to Order

- **Chairman called to order the annual meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District (NCFD) at 7:48 p.m. A quorum is present.**

Pledge of Allegiance

- **Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Phillip Koutsogiane.**

Proof of Notice of Annual Meeting

- **Chairman Koutsogiane submitted into the record a notarized Affidavit of Compliance dated June 27, 2012 listing newspapers and dates in which the annual meeting was advertised.**

Roll Call

- **Present: Chairman Philip Koutsogiane, Vice Chair Michael Spaziani, John Patrick McCoy, Duanne Guenard, Paul Lindquist, Brian**

Campbell, Matthew Gannon, Harry MacDonald, Chief Brian Jackvony, Tax Collector Martin Klara, Treasurer Robert Murray, and Clerk Ghislaine D. Therien.

Election of Moderator

Board unanimously nominated Chairman Koutsogiane as Moderator for the Annual Meeting.

Acceptance of Minutes of Annual Meeting held on June 15, 2011

Motion made by Mr. McCoy and seconded by Mr. Spaziani to accept the Minutes from the June 15, 2011 Annual Meeting as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried by all present.

Summary of Activities of Fire District for previous fiscal year: Chairperson, Treasurer, Fire Chief

Treasurer's Summary

Robert Murray, Treasurer gave a general overview of year end 2011-2012 annual budget explaining the final year end numbers ending June 30, 2012 using May actual information. Finished the 2011-2012 year \$190,000 better than budgeted.

Chief Jackvony's Summary

- District responded to a total of 1,379 calls in the 2011-2012 year including mutual aid responses– mostly medical runs.**
- Personnel attended required trainings for certification**

Apparatus

- Engine 5/Truck 5 in good shape but 20 years old and needs constant repairs.
- Grants were obtained for the replacement of windows and boiler. Roof on the fire station has been replaced using line item.
- Deputy Chief will also be sharing services with Valley Falls. Negotiations in process.
- Advertisement was placed in Valley Breeze for an Administrative Assistant for the Chief. Position will be split between Valley Falls Fire Department and North Cumberland Fire District.
- In the process of updating the computer program.
- Every response vehicle has 3 EMTs on board. Each firefighter is qualified in medical services.

Resident inquired what a mutual aid response is. Chief replied it is when another district calls upon him if there is a fire which needs additional assistance – such as the mill fire that occurred in Woonsocket.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Annual Budget

- John McCoy has headed the Budget Committee and reviewed the proposed 2012-2013 budget line item by line item explaining in detail the reason for their increase or decrease from last year's budget. Mr. McCoy responded to all inquires from the residents in attendance.
- Fire Chief Jackvony is splitting his time between the Valley Falls Fire Department and North Cumberland Fire Department. An

Administrative Assistant is included in the proposed budget to allow Chief more time to attend to his daily duties.

- Fire District reports will now be available on their website for residents to view.**
- Rubiano performed an audit of the District's records and did not find any discrepancies.**
- The District is into year two of the Clark ten year settlement.**

Resident Ed LeBlanc stated he was concerned about the Chief's pay. Does the District pay one-half of his salary and Valley Falls the other one half? He encouraged the Board to make sure the Chief is compensated properly for his services. It took a long time to reach a contract with Valley Falls regarding sharing his services. It would be a great loss if he were to leave.

Another resident asked why payroll numbers were so high. Response was that the District is down one firefighter and injuries necessitated overtime by the rest of the staff. A new firefighter would cost the department \$30,000. Overtime is about the same as last year.

Why is the pension at 37%? State said our contribution rate went down 16%. Rates are set by the State and the District has no control over the contribution percentage. Other districts are also part of the State system.

Resident Art Lambi addressed the Board stating the pension budget numbers are spot on and much lower than last year – we are at the mercy of the State and have always done our part.

The District currently has a year end surplus. Chief stated the station needs to have the kitchen updated and the new Administrative Assistant will need working space. Mr. McCoy stated once the new budget is in place the new tax rate will need to be set. Tax bills are being mailed end of August.

Set Tax Rate

Mr. McCoy addressed the residents stating the Board of Trustees approved the proposed budget at their June 20, 2012 meeting. Last year's rate was \$1.68 per \$1,000. Next year's proposed budget would reduce the tax rate to \$1.61 per \$1,000. If the surplus money was returned to the residents, the Board would need to increase the tax rate in 2-3 years.

Resident Art Lambi stated two years ago the surplus was \$225,000 – the District refinance the truck lease and banked \$150,000. This year there is a \$150,000 surplus. What is being done with the surplus monies?

Chairman Koutsogiane recommended retaining the \$1.68 per \$1,000 rate to keep a cushion in place in case of emergencies. Mr. McCoy

stated if the tax rate were to drop to \$1.65 per \$1,000 it would only in a \$9.00 per household savings. 90% of the taxes were collected and the District had a tax sale which brought in additional revenue. 93% is the average collection rate. Truck lease is an amortized loan and decreases every month. Ed LeBlanc asked if the Board could use some of the surplus monies and pay down the truck loan. Mr. McCoy replied that is a possibility.

Resident Thomas Ward stated proposed budget is a good one for the residents but it seems like there is no benefit to keeping a high surplus.

Motion made by Art Lambi to set the budget at \$1.65 per \$1,000. Resident in attendance called a point of order. The Board cannot take a vote on a motion until the budget is passed.

Motion made by Joyce Koutsogiane to accept the 2012-2013 budget as presented. Motion seconded by Ed LeBlanc. Motion carried by a majority of residents. No votes in opposition.

Motion made by Resident Robert O'Neil to set the tax rate at \$1.68 per \$1,000. Motion seconded by Donald Emerson. Motion carried by a majority of residents. Chairman Koutsogiane requests a vote count. 35 vote in favor, 20 vote to oppose motion.

Election of Trustees

Motion made by Ed LeBlanc to reappoint Paul Lindquist to a four year term as Trustee. Motion seconded by James Conway. No opposition present. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Question arose regarding number of Trustees sitting on the Board – there will be one vacancy with the appointment of Mr. Lindquist to a four year term. Chairman Koutsogiane stated the Board can operate with only seven members.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Resident Ed LeBlanc to adjourn the annual meeting. Motion seconded by Resident James Conway. Motion carried by all present.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ghislaine D. Therien, Clerk